

Leader's Guide: Seeking Revival

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2021! We believe prayer is the birthplace of revival. God has worked so many miracles in past years as we have sought Him together in prayer and fasting. The Holy Spirit has brought about conversions, renewed passion for evangelism, revived churches, and healed relationships.

Has God's voice been calling you to revival? The Bible is full of promises for you:

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Joel 2:32).

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

Wherever you are in life right now, God is closer than you think. He wants to pour out His blessings on your family, your church, your community, and your world. Join us now in praying for spiritual revival through the Holy Spirit!

General Ten Days of Prayer Items

Daily Prayer Guides

We have provided a prayer guide for each of the ten days. Each guide includes a Bible passage, devotional reading, Bible texts to pray through, prayer suggestions, and song suggestions. We recommend that you copy the daily guides so each participant can have one to follow during the prayer time.

Churches around the world will unite in praying about each day's topic. Join them in praying through the verses and prayer requests, but don't feel that you must rush through the entire list of prayer suggestions. You may want to divide into small groups and have each group pray for a portion of your prayer requests.

We also included a document called World Church Prayer Requests. It's important to pray together for our world church family, but you may want to spend extra time praying for local needs if your group includes visitors from the community. Pray about how you can best welcome guests and make them feel a part of your group. (NOTE: World Church Prayer Requests will be updated in the fall of 2020. See www.tendaysofprayer.org.)

Suggested Times for Each Prayer Session

Keep your prayer time simple so the group can focus on actually praying. How much time you spend on each section will vary. The following guide is just a suggestion:

Welcome and introduction: 2 – 5 minutes

Read devotional (in daily prayer guide): 5 minutes

Pray through the verses in "Praying God's Word" (in daily prayer guide): 10 – 15 minutes

Pray about the items in "More Prayer Suggestions" (in daily prayer guide): 20 – 30 minutes

Respond in song and praise: 5 – 10 minutes

Pray for Others

Encourage each person to pray consistently for five to seven people that God has placed in their life. They can be relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or simply acquaintances. Encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit for

guidance in choosing these names and in reaching out to these people during the ten days. You may want to provide some cards or pieces of paper on which people can record the names they will be praying for.

Sabbath Services During Ten Days of Prayer

Have a special prayer focus and share testimonies of answered prayer during the church services on both Sabbaths. Be creative—there are many ways to share with the church family what is happening during the daily prayer meetings.

Final Sabbath Celebration

The final Sabbath should be designed as a time of great rejoicing in all that God has done throughout the ten days. Include ample time for testimonies of answered prayer, biblical teaching/preaching on prayer, and singing. Lead the congregation in a time of prayer so that those who have not attended the daily meetings can experience the joy of praying with others. Please see the Sabbath Celebration handout for more ideas.

Follow-up to Ten Days of Prayer

Pray about how God wants your church/group to continue what He has begun during Ten Days of Prayer. Perhaps you will continue with a weekly prayer session. Or perhaps God wants you to begin a new ministry in your church or an outreach to the community. Be open and follow where God leads. You're sure to be amazed as you walk with Him. The document called Outreach Challenge is filled with ideas for service.

Testimonies

Please share stories of how God has worked through Ten Days of Prayer! Your stories will be an encouragement to many others. Testimonies may be submitted online at www.tendaysofprayer.org.

United Prayer Pointers

Agree Together

When someone prays a request to God, be sure some others pray for that same request and agree together—this is powerful! Don't think that because one person has prayed about the request, no one else needs to. "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19). How encouraging it is to be lifted up in prayer!

Claiming God's Promises

Encourage the group to claim God's promises as they pray. It is so easy to focus on our problems. But when we claim God's promises, we increase our faith and remind ourselves that nothing is impossible with God. The promises help us take our eyes off our weaknesses and difficulties and set them on Jesus. For every weakness and every struggle, we can find Bible promises to claim. Encourage people to search for more promises and write them down so they can claim them in the future.

Fasting

Invite those joining you in Ten Days of Prayer to consider some type of fasting, such as fasting from TV, secular music, movies, the Internet, sweets, or other types of food that are hard to digest. Use the extra time to pray and study the Bible, asking God to help you and your congregation to abide more fully in Christ. By adopting a simple diet, we allow our minds to become more receptive to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit

Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to pray for in a person's life or in a particular situation. The Bible tells us that we do not know what to pray for and that the Holy Spirit is the one making intercession for us.

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit 'maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.' (Romans 8:26). Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ,

there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20)" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147, emphasis supplied).

Journaling

Keeping a prayer journal during the Ten Days of Prayer can help participants to internalize the daily prayer theme, make concrete commitments to God, and recognize His blessings. Writing out our prayers and keeping a record of God's answers is a proven path to encouragement.

If you wish, you might provide time during the prayer meeting for people to journal their responses to God in private prayer journals. Or you could keep a group journal of prayer requests and answers—either in a notebook, on a large poster, or online. It is exciting and faith-building to look back and see how God has answered prayers!

Reverence

Encourage and model a reverent attitude. We are approaching the throne room of the King of the universe. Let's not treat this prayer time carelessly in our posture or mannerisms. However, it is not necessary that everyone kneel continuously. You want people to be comfortable for an hour, so encourage everyone to kneel or sit or stand as God leads and as they are comfortable.

Sentence Prayers

Prayers should be short and to the point. This gives others an opportunity to pray as well. Try to limit your prayers to a few sentences. Each person can pray multiple times. Short sentence prayers keep the prayer time interesting and allow the Holy Spirit to impress the group how to pray. You don't need to open and close each short sentence prayer with phrases such as "Dear God" and "Amen." It is an ongoing conversation with God.

Silence

As a leader, don't dominate the prayer time. The goal is to get others praying. Times of silence are wonderful, as they give God time to speak to our hearts. Allow the Holy Spirit to work and give everyone time to pray.

Singing

Spontaneous group songs, mingled between prayers, add beauty to the prayer meeting. Suggested songs are listed at the end of each theme sheet. Do not feel that you need to use all the songs—these are simply suggestions. Singing is also a good way to transition from one prayer section to another.

Taking Prayer Requests

Don't ask for prayer requests from the group. Instead, tell people to pray their requests and encourage others to join in agreement and prayer for those requests. Here's why: time! Talking about the requests will take up most of your prayer time. Satan is thrilled if he can keep us talking about the problem instead of praying about the problem. Group members will often begin counseling and suggesting solutions. The power is from God! The more we pray, the more His power is unleashed.

Your Daily Time

This is so important! Make sure that you as a leader are spending time daily at the feet of Jesus, talking with Him and reading His Word. If you will make knowing God a first priority in your life, it will open such a beautiful experience to you. "From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation. There, with holy calmness, the servants of the Lord set their feet upon the rock of His promises" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 210). When a leader prays, God works on hearts!

Introduction

Welcome to Ten Days of Prayer 2021! We believe prayer is the birthplace of revival. God has worked so many miracles in past years as we have sought Him together in prayer and fasting. The Holy Spirit has brought about conversions, renewed passion for evangelism, revived churches, and healed relationships. Here are just a few testimonies from previous years:

During Ten Days of Prayer I offered two requests: 1) for my daughter to be redeemed from the bondage of addiction and 2) for my husband to come to the Lord. [By the next year] I was praising God for my daughter's ability to say that she is eight months 'clean' from methamphetamine, no longer homeless, and working full time. My husband was rebaptized and actually attended Ten Days of Prayer with me this year. All praise to God, our Father, through Jesus Christ. (N.H.)

As a church we started to pray for rain because our country was facing drought. It was hectic and everyone was panicking, but I want to thank God that after three days, He answered our prayers. Now it is raining every day. (L.M.)

Through prayer the sick were healed, estranged family members were reunited, hope was present even in the death of loved ones, and people recommitted their lives to God. We serve a living God! We cannot wait to see what He has in store for us this year. (Dereck)

Has God's voice been calling you to revival? The Bible is full of promises for you:

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"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Joel 2:32).

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

Wherever you are in life right now, God is closer than you think. He wants to pour out His blessings on your family, your church, your community, and your world!

Our Prayer Theme: Seeking Revival

This year we invite you to seek revival through the power of the Holy Spirit during Ten Days of Prayer. As you pray, claim God's promise to Zerubbabel as your own: "'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). In other words, "'What you are planning will neither succeed by the might of an army nor by human strength; rather, My Spirit will accomplish it! I, the Lord God Almighty, promise this" (translated by Helmut Haubeil from the German *Hoffnung fuer Alle* version).

God wants to do incredible things in our lives and churches today. His plans go far beyond our own capabilities, and only with a constant prayer connection to Him can we carry out the task He has prepared. He bids us, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Join us in praying for revival and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Seek God's kingdom first, and watch Him open the windows of heaven!

Suggested Guidelines for Prayer Times

- Keep your prayers short—just a sentence or two on one topic. Then give others a turn. You can pray as many times as you'd like, just as you talk in a conversation.
- Do not be afraid of silence, as it gives everyone time to listen to the Holy Spirit.
- Singing songs together as the Spirit leads is also a huge blessing. You do not need a piano for this; singing acapella is fine.
- Rather than using up valuable prayer time talking about your prayer requests, simply pray them. Then others can also pray for your requests and claim promises for your need.

Claiming the Promises

It is our privilege to claim God's promises in our prayers. All His commandments and counsels are also promises. He would never ask from us something that we could not do in His strength.

It is so easy to focus on our needs, our difficulties, our challenges—and to wail and whine about our situation when we pray. This is not the purpose of prayer. Prayer is meant to strengthen our faith. That is why we encourage you to claim God's promises in your prayer time. Take your eyes off yourself and your weaknesses and look to Jesus. By beholding Him, we become changed into His image.

Ellen White offers this encouragement: "Every promise in the Word of God is for us. In your prayers, present the pledged word of Jehovah and by faith claim His promises. His word is the assurance that if you ask in faith, you will receive all spiritual blessings. Continue to ask, and you will receive exceeding abundantly above all that you ask or think" (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 71).

How can you claim His promises? For instance, when praying for peace, you can claim John 14:27 and say, "Lord, You have told us in Your Word, 'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.' Give me the peace that You promised to leave with us." Thank the Lord that He is giving you peace, even though you may not feel it right then.

Fasting

We encourage you to do a Daniel Fast during these ten days. Starting the year with prayer and fasting is a wonderful way to consecrate our lives to God for the upcoming year. Ellen White tells us, "Now and onward till the close of time the people of God should be more earnest, more wide-awake, not trusting in their own wisdom, but in the wisdom of their Leader. They should set aside days for fasting and prayer. Entire abstinence from food may not be required, but they should eat sparingly of the most simple food" (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 188, 189).

We know about Daniel, who ate fruits and vegetables for ten days. We likewise encourage you to adopt a very simple diet during these ten days. If we want clearer minds for hearing God's voice, and if we want to draw closer to Him, we need to make sure that our diet is not hindering us.

Fasting is not only about abstaining from food. We also encourage you to fast from TV, movies, computer games, and even Facebook and YouTube. Sometimes things that are not bad in themselves can take so much of our time. Put aside everything possible so you can have more time to spend with the Lord.

Fasting is not a quick way to obtain a miracle from God. Fasting is all about humbling ourselves so God can work in us and through us. Let's draw closer to Him through prayer and fasting, and He will draw closer to us.

Holy Spirit

Be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to show you what you should pray for in a person's life or in a particular situation. The Bible tells us that we do not know what to pray for and that the Holy Spirit is the One who intercedes for us.

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit 'maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered' (Romans 8:26). Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ,

there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20)" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Faith

We read in the Spirit of Prophecy that "prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 509). We are also told that "for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received" (*Education*, p. 258). So make a habit of thanking God in advance through faith for what He is going to do and how He is going to answer your prayers.

Pray for Others

During these ten days we encourage you to pray consistently for the people God has placed in your life. Choose five to seven people—they can be relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or simply acquaintances. Take some time to ask God whom He would like you to pray for. Ask Him also to give you a real burden for these people. Write the names on a piece of paper and keep it in a prominent place, such as in your Bible. You'll be amazed at how God works in response to your prayers!

Ten Days of Prayer Outreach Challenge

Jesus calls us not only to pray but also to serve the practical needs of those around us. "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me" (Matthew 25:35, 36).

In *The Ministry of Healing* we read, "We must live a twofold life—a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work" (p. 512). We have received so much love from our Savior, and we have the privilege of sharing that love with friends, neighbors, and strangers in need.

Ask God how you and your church can serve others after Ten Days of Prayer. As you work to organize service activities, avoid letting the arrangements distract you from praying. "Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people" (*Prayer*, p. 313).

In the online Ten Days of Prayer resources, you'll find a document with dozens of outreach ideas. Jesus invites you to be His hands and feet to a world in need!

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More Resources for Revival

The principal contributor for the 2021 prayer guides is Helmut Haubeil. After years working in business, he responded to God's call to the ministry at age 37. He has served as director of an Adventist nursing home in Germany, edited a mission newsletter, and conducted mission work in central Asia and India. In recent years he has inspired believers around the world with his seminars and books, including the widely translated *Steps to Personal Revival*.

Helmut Haubeil invites readers to download the book *Steps to Personal Revival* for free at his website: <https://steps-to-personal-revival.info> (available in more than 40 languages and as an audiobook). Additional books include *Abide in Jesus* and *Spirit-filled Coworkers of Jesus* (coming soon).

Ten Days of Prayer participants may wish to read the following chapters in addition to the daily prayer guides:

Day 1

Steps to Personal Revival, Chapter 1, "Jesus' Most Precious Gift"

Day 2

Spirit-filled Coworkers of Jesus, Chapter 1, "God Loves You"

Day 3

Abide in Jesus, Chapter 2, "Surrender to Jesus"

Day 4

Steps to Personal Revival, Chapter 2, "What Is the Center of Our Problems?"

Day 5

Steps to Personal Revival, Chapter 2, "What Is the Center of Our Problems?"

Day 6

Steps to Personal Revival, Chapter 3, "Our Problems Are Solvable—How?"

Day 7

Steps to Personal Revival, Chapter 5, "The Key to Practical Experience"

Day 8

Abide in Jesus, Chapter 4, "Obedience Through Jesus"

Day 9

Spirit-filled Coworkers of Jesus, Chapter 3, "Who Is Working: God Through Me or Me for God?"

Day 10

Spirit-filled Coworkers of Jesus, Chapter 10, "Spiritual-Missionary Restart in Three Steps"

Night of Prayer

Consider holding an all-night prayer service as part of Ten Days of Prayer. For example, you could begin at 6:00 p.m. and finish at 6:00 a.m. Choose a schedule that's suitable for your group.

Why a Night of Prayer?

There is nothing "holy" in staying awake and praying all night. However, night might be the only time when people are not busy or in a rush. We believe that your purpose should not be to stay up the whole night but to pray as long as necessary and until you have prayed for everything you feel God wants you to pray for.

We suggest that several people lead out during the night. Be sure to have some breaks. As a leader, you can sense the atmosphere and know when a break is needed and when you need to move on to the next section of prayer. You can also incorporate the reading of Bible passages into your prayer time. You may want to do all of the suggested items or only some of them, depending on what is best for your group. Feel free to change the order.

Possible Format for Night of Prayer

Start with a session of praise. Praise God in your prayers and also through songs.

Take some time for confession, making sure that nothing is hindering God from hearing you. Give people time for private confession and have a time of corporate confession. Encourage the people to confess private sins privately and to confess publicly only the public sins. In Daniel 9:1-19 we read about Daniel, who interceded and publicly confessed the sins of God's people.

Pray for the needs of people who are at the prayer meeting. So many people are hurting or in need of prayer, or know someone else who is in desperate need of prayer. Make a circle, put a chair in the middle, and invite those who have a special prayer request to come one by one and share their requests. Then gather around the person and have two or three people pray for the person's specific need and claim God's promises.

Divide the group in two. Have the females pray in one room (with a female leader) and the males in another room (with a male leader). Many personal needs cannot and should not be shared with everyone. It is easier to share with those of the same gender.

After you come back together, **pray for needs in your community and church.** Also take time for **world church prayer requests** (listed in a separate document in the Ten Days of Prayer materials). Don't feel that you must rush through the entire list. You may want to divide into small groups and have each group pray for part of the list.

Pray for the list of five to seven people you have been praying for during these ten days.

Choose a Bible passage and pray through it.

Close the prayer time with another session of praise and thanksgiving.

Outreach Challenge for Ten Days of Prayer

Jesus calls us not only to pray but also to serve the spiritual and physical needs of those around us. "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me" (Matthew 25:35, 36).

In *The Ministry of Healing* we read, "We must live a twofold life—a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work" (p. 512). We have received so much love from our Savior, and we have the privilege of sharing that love with friends, neighbors, and strangers in need.

Ask God how you and your church can serve others after the Ten Days of Prayer. As you work to organize the service activities, avoid letting the arrangements distract you from praying. "Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people" (*Prayer*, p. 313).

Here are some ways of helping others. Choose whatever fits the needs of your community, and feel free to add your own ideas.

- Cook a meal for someone who has been sick.
- Invite a neighbor/co-worker to a social gathering.
- Give food to a homeless person.
- Donate clothing that you would want donated to you.
- "Adopt" an elderly person. Visit the person on a regular basis and help with chores, shopping, cooking, or garden work.
- Bake some bread and share a loaf with a neighbor.
- Help with neighborhood projects.
- Offer to stay with a sick or disabled person so their caretakers can run an errand.
- Participate in neighborhood projects.
- Introduce yourself to a new neighbor by taking them a meal. Make them feel welcome in the neighborhood.
- Buy groceries and deliver them to a needy family.
- Donate your old eyeglasses.
- Offer to give a Bible study.
- Visit people in nursing homes.
- Give some "food" money to a student.
- Collect clothing for the needy. You might start a clothes closet at your church for sharing with others.
- Donate your old laptop or other electronics.
- Donate a used car.
- Organize a "Health Expo."
- Send a card to a shut-in.
- Organize an evangelistic series.
- Call your neighbors and ask how they're doing.
- Give someone a book you think they'd like.
- Pass out GLOW tracts (available to order here: www.glowonline.org/glow).
- Invite someone to accept Jesus.
- Hold a cooking school.
- Give away sharing books about biblical topics.
- Take some food to someone who has lost a loved one.
- Visit someone in the hospital to encourage them or help them in some way.
- Read to an elderly person.

- Visit a children's home and offer your help to the staff.
- Start a sewing/knitting/crocheting group to make clothes to give away.
- Read the Bible aloud for someone who can't see or read.
- Host a youth night at your home.
- Volunteer at a shelter for abused persons.
- Donate some books to a children's home or shelter.
- Take children from your church to visit a home for elderly people. Present a program for them.
- Plan and host a fun day for special-needs kids and their families.
- Have a community clean-up day.
- Start a healthy living club in your church. Invite friends and neighbors.
- Ask someone if they would like to join you in watching a DVD with a spiritual message. As you watch together, pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to the person's heart.
- Design your own project.

For more resources on witnessing, visit www.revivalandreformation.org/resources/witnessing.

Promises to Claim in Prayer

All Scripture NKJV

Promises for the Holy Spirit

"Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain. The Lord will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, grass in the field for everyone." Zech. 10:1

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:13

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. . . . And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." John 14:26; 16:8

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:12-14

"So he answered and said to me: This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6

Promises that God Answers Prayers

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:24

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." Ps. 50:15

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." Matt. 18:19

"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." Matt. 21:22

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13, 14

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:23, 24

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we asked of Him." 1 John 5:14, 15

Promises About God's Power

"Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." Gen. 18:14

"The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." Ex. 14:14

"But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.'" Mark 10:27

"He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thess. 5:24

"I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You." Job 42:2

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8:31, 32

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" Num. 23:19

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isa. 40:28-31

Promises for God's Guidance

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Josh. 1:9

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Gen. 28:15

"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared." Ex. 23:20

"But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul." Deut. 4:29

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jer. 33:3

"Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Isa. 40:4, 5

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye." Ps. 32:8

"And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed." Deut. 31:8

"Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses." Ps. 25:12

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Prov. 3:5, 6

"If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail." Isa. 58:10, 11

"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear." Isa. 65:24

Promises for a Changed Heart

"Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart." Jer. 24:7

"And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live." Deut. 30:6

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezek. 36:26

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Phil. 1:6

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Cor. 5:17

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thess. 5:23, 24

Promises for Forgiveness

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chr. 7:14

"For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You." Ps. 86:5

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:25

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Eph. 4:32

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins." Isa. 43:25

"For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." Jer. 31:34

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Eph. 1:7

Promises for Victory Over Sin

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." 1 John 5:4

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Rom. 8:37

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:57

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isa. 41:10

"Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."
Eph. 6:16

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Phil. 2:13

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." Gal. 5:16

"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen." Rom. 16:20

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:2

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15

Promises for Healing

"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." Ex. 15:26

"Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; as your days, so shall your strength be." Deut. 33:25

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Ps. 103:2-5

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones." Prov. 3:7, 8

"He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:3-5

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise." Jer. 17:14

"'For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,' says the Lord, 'because they called you an outcast saying: This is Zion; no one seeks her.'" Jer. 30:17

"Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth." Jer. 33:6

"But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves." Mal. 4:2

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." James 5:14, 15

Promises for Strength to Do God's Will

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor. 4:16-18

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Gal. 6:9

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Phil. 2:13

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:9

Promises About Being God's Witnesses

"Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one." Isa. 44:8

"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." Isa. 60:1

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Cor. 5:18

"But the Lord said to me: Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak." Jer. 1:7

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15

Sabbath Celebration

Design the final Sabbath of Ten Days of Prayer to celebrate God's goodness and mighty power. Share how you have experienced revival and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the past ten days. Rejoice in what God has done, is doing, and will do.

The needs of each congregation are unique, so please work with local leaders to develop a specific plan for your church. Here are some possible items to include in your final Sabbath church service.

Theme:

Seeking Revival from the Holy Spirit

Theme Verse:

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

Possible Hymns:

Live Out Thy Life Within Me
Fill My Cup, Lord
Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Revive Us Again
I Surrender All

Sermon Ideas:

Have a pastor, elder, or prayer leader preach a short sermon about revival through the Holy Spirit. Consider using one of these Bible passages:

- Luke 11:9-13 (asking for and receiving the Holy Spirit)
- Acts 2 (outpouring of the Holy Spirit on early Christians)
- Romans 8 (living according to the Spirit)

[OR]

Have the Ten Days of Prayer participants take turns offering 1- or 2-minute summaries for each of the 10 daily prayer guides. Share the title, the main verse, and a key thought. (Plan ahead so the summaries stay within 1-2 minutes. For most people, one minute is 125-150 words.)

[OR]

Enlist youth to present Scripture passages, readings, or short sermons related to the theme of revival by the Holy Spirit. Youth could also help with music or offer testimonies.

Other Program Ideas:

Member testimonies of answered prayer
Small-group prayer time
Announcement of future prayer or service activities
Children's story about prayer
Special music selections

World Church Prayer Requests

- We pray for God's people around the world to implore the Lord for His guidance in helping us to experience primitive godliness as we come to the end of time.
- We pray for religious liberty and freedom of conscience in some very difficult places around the world which holds back the proclamation of the last-day message to the entire globe.
- We pray for complete acceptance by church membership worldwide of the call of God for all to proclaim the three angels' messages of Rev 14:6-12 and the fourth angel of Rev 18:1-4 with Christ's righteousness at the core of the three angels' messages.
- We pray for a response by the worldwide church membership to say, "I Will Go" in proclaiming Christ's everlasting gospel sharing with the world the good news of Christ's soon return.
- We pray for a strong belief in and acceptance of the Bible as God's Holy Word to be read as it reads and a commitment to the following of the amazing and heavenly instruction from God through the Spirit of Prophecy in the form of the writings of Ellen G White.
- We pray for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit for the finishing of God's work for the climax of history and the second come of Christ.
- We pray for countries that are heavily affected by COVID-19
- We pray for those suffering from COVID-19 in your local community
- We pray for the distribution of the vaccine and other treatments that can help cure COVID-19
- We pray for the decision makers in your local government and health department to have wisdom in their decision making.
- We pray for those who are financially affected by the lockdowns and job losses.
- We pray for individuals struggling with mental health issues due to the pandemic and isolation.
- We pray for church members to know how to show they care to those who are hurting.
- We pray for churches to be impressed with ideas on how to stay connected with church members.
- We pray for ways to help students as they deal with disappointments of "normal" things not happening during the school year and so many restrictions.
- We pray for teachers as they deal with constant changes in how they teach.
- We pray for the homeless and for churches as they minister to them.
- We pray for families to find ways to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.
- We pray for older people who are already lonely and now even more so as people can't visit them. May church members be impressed to send cards or call them.
- We pray for pastors who struggle to find ways to keep their church members connected and deal with different ways to minister to the congregation.
- We pray for Adventist members who face persecution or imprisonment because of their beliefs.
- We pray for a spiritual revival among Seventh-day Adventist young people who attend public colleges and universities worldwide. May they become vibrant ambassadors for Christ.
- We pray for the 69 percent of earth's population who have not received an unclouded presentation of Jesus.
- We pray for the 62 million people in the 28 least-reached cities of the former Soviet Union (Euro-Asia Division).
- We pray for God to raise up brave missionaries willing to work among the 746 people groups in the 20 countries of the Middle East.
- We pray for a mighty surge of Adventists who will serve God by loving others and by sharing with people from other cultures and religions.
- Please raise up modern-day Waldensian students who are willing to serve You in difficult places.
- We pray for the 202 million people in the 41 least-reached cities of Southern Asia-Pacific Division to know Jesus.
- We pray for the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department of each local church as they seek God's plan and reach out to their communities with loving service, Bible study, and personal witnessing.

- We pray for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) as they meet practical needs around the world.
- We pray for the 16 million people in the 6 least-reached cities of South Pacific Division.
- We pray for the Holy Spirit to help us know how to reach the 406 million people in the 105 least-reached cities of Northern Asia-Pacific Division.
- Please bless as Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries mobilizes chaplains and interested members to minister to those in prison.
- Lord, we pray for our Sabbath School teachers. Please let them know how important their work is for our children.
- Lord, we seek your guidance for the many Centers of Influence, health and family programs, and Pathfinder clubs around the world.
- We pray that You will help us love and nurture new members.
- Lord, please show us how to send more truth-filled literature (printed and electronic) into our communities. We pray that people will read it and that the Holy Spirit will convict them of Bible truth.
- Lord, we ask for Your protection over missionaries working in dangerous places.
- Please raise up literature evangelists, student volunteers, authors, media specialists, and financial supporters to spread words of hope and life.
- We pray for Adventist schools, students, and teachers worldwide. May these schools always teach Bible truth and lead young people into mission and service.
- Lord, give us wisdom to reach secular cultures that have no interest in religion. Let Your Holy Spirit break down the walls that surround secular hearts.
- Bless us as we reach out to people enslaved by spirit worship, idolatry, and animistic beliefs. Help us to understand their worldview and introduce them to a personal Savior.
- Lord, please inspire Seventh-day Adventists around the world to pray as never before. Let us plead together for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit, as promised in Joel 2, Hosea 6, and Acts 2.
- We pray for the 541 people groups in the 18 countries of Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Please lead them to biblical truth.
- Show us how to meet the practical and spiritual needs of refugees. May our church be known for our love of all people, no matter who they are or where they come from.
- May we faithfully and fully proclaim the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14. May we center all our teachings on the love and righteousness of Christ.
- We ask You to raise up urban missionaries to plant churches for the 806 people groups in the 20 countries of Inter-European Division.
- Please raise up an army of workers to plant churches for the 948 people groups in the 38 countries of Inter-American Division.
- Please teach us how to proclaim our fundamental church beliefs with clarity, creativity, and biblical authenticity. May the love of Jesus be at the core of everything we believe.
- Lord, please prepare young people to plant churches for the 789 people groups in the 9 countries of North American Division.
- We ask You to prepare volunteers to serve the 70 people groups in the Israel Field.
- We ask You to raise up medical missionaries to plant churches among the 830 people groups in the 11 countries of East-Central Africa Division.
- We ask You to raise up prayer warriors to intercede for the 2,568 people groups in the 4 countries of Southern Asia Division.
- Please let our families reveal Your love in our homes and communities. We ask You to bring harmony into homes, heal broken relationships, protect the vulnerable from abuse, and reveal Your sanctifying power in seemingly hopeless situations.
- May our church members, pastors, and leaders around the world feed on God's Word every day. May we also seek You daily in personal prayer. Remind us that without You, we can do nothing.

- We ask You to raise up nurses and doctors to plant new churches among the 1,978 people groups in the 22 countries in West-Central Africa Division.
- We pray for the 49 million people in the 19 least-reached cities of Trans-European Division.
- We pray for our children. Please empower them to stand boldly for You when they encounter obstacles and pressure. Help them to make wise choices and stand for truth.
- Teach us to follow Christ's selfless example by meeting the daily needs of people close to us. Equip us to serve as medical missionaries, community volunteers, and friends to the needy.
- Lord, may a mighty revival of primitive godliness sweep Your church in the final days. May we stand for truth though the heavens fall.
- We pray for youth leaders around the world who are faithfully passing our heritage to the next generation: *identity* in Christ, *mission* as Seventh-day Adventists, and *leadership* in the local church.
- We pray for the youth who are living dangerously for the Lord through One Year in Mission and Mission Caleb.
- Lord, please show us a God-given strategy for reaching the Jerichos of the world with the Three Angels' Messages and leading the Rahabs in every city to salvation in Christ.
- Lord, please bring healing and comfort to millions who suffer from illness and disease. Show us how to be your hands and feet to bless the suffering and bring hope to the fearful.

Seeking Revival

DAY 1 — JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

"How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).

I Have Nothing

"Lord, teach us to pray!" the disciples pleaded. They saw how Jesus connected daily with His Heavenly Father and longed for the same power in their own lives.

Jesus responded with a memorable prayer lesson in three parts: the Lord's Prayer, the parable of a friend coming at midnight, and—in climax—the need to continually request the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:1-13).

In the parable (verses 5-8), a man has nothing to feed a visitor who arrives late in the evening. The man hurries to his neighbor and asks for bread to feed the visitor, explaining, "I have nothing." He continues asking until at last he receives bread to share with his guest. In this story we see that we have to come to Jesus in order to have something to share with others. When we want to pass on the Bread of Life, we often realize that we have nothing to give!

Then Jesus links the problem in this parable (*I have nothing*) with our need to request the Holy Spirit: "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you" (Luke 11:9).

Jesus Invites Us: Keep Asking

Here in Luke 11, Jesus emphasizes 10 times that we should ask for the Holy Spirit in our lives. I know of no other passage where He so lovingly urges us to take something to heart.

"So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who **asks** receives, and he who **seeks** finds, and to him who **knocks** it will be opened. If a son **asks** for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he **asks** for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he **asks** for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask** Him!" (Luke 11:9-13).

In these few verses, Jesus uses the verb *ask* six times and emphasizes the idea with *seek* two times and *knock* two times. These are all action verbs. He clearly shows that we must take action in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The last use of *ask* is in the Greek continuous tense, meaning that we should ask not just once but keep asking—continuously. Clearly, Jesus wants to awaken our desire for the Holy Spirit with this heartfelt invitation. He knows we are missing something crucial if we don't continually ask for the rich blessings of the Holy Spirit.

In *Christ's Object Lessons* we read, "God does not say, Ask once, and you shall receive. He bids us ask. Unwearyingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks" (p. 145).

And consider for a moment, why did Jesus Himself spend so much time in daily prayer? Ellen White explains, "Morning by morning He communicated with His Father in heaven, receiving from Him daily a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit" (*Signs of the Times*, Nov. 21, 1895).

Indeed, Jesus was our example in this. Ask yourself: If Jesus needed a daily refreshing from the Holy Spirit, then how much more important is it for me?

Testimony and Challenge from a Church Member

"For the past two years I have been praying daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in my life. . . . My walk with God has been unbelievable. The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 has become more visible in my life since I asked Jesus to live in me, to do His will in me, and to daily renew me with the Holy Spirit. I have greater joy in reading the Bible and sharing Christ with others, and I have a strong desire to pray for others; furthermore, my lifestyle has changed dramatically. . . . I challenge you to pray daily to be filled with the Holy Spirit for six weeks and see what happens" (C.H.).

Praying God's Word

Why don't we have more answers to prayer?

"Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:2, 3).

Dear Heavenly Father, please forgive us for neglecting to ask continually for the Holy Spirit. Thank You that if we confess our sins, You are faithful to forgive them.

Our request shows how much we value God's offer.

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).

Dear Father, thank You for promising to give us the Holy Spirit. We ask for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit now, and we thank you for answering. Teach us to rely on this promise.

God wants to give us life in abundance!

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" (John 7:38, 39).

Dear Lord, thank You for granting rivers of living water to those who believe in You. Please help us to live in daily, continual surrender to Christ so that You can fulfill this promise in our lives.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Spirit of the Living God (#672); Sweet, Sweet Spirit (#262); Fill My Cup, Lord (#493); Sweet Hour of Prayer (#478); Come, Holy Spirit (#269).

Seeking Revival

DAY 2 — GRASPING THE GIFT

“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:18, NIV).

Receive, Surrender, Grow

How can we experience the fullness of God’s love? Read what the apostle Paul says in Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV).

1. First, we need to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being” (verse 16).
2. Next, we surrender our lives to Christ and live in a close, continual relationship with Him “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (verse 17).
3. Then our faith grows and matures through Christ and the Holy Spirit in us. We are “rooted and established in love” (verse 17).

The result? We experience the fullness of God’s love. He gives us the power “together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (verse 18).

God’s Love Passes Every Test

Consider the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. One day the younger son went to his father (who symbolizes God) and declared that he wanted to leave home and live his own life. Evidently his father’s household rules (God’s commandments) didn’t suit him. The son demanded his inheritance, which he wasn’t even entitled to at that time, so the father gave him his portion. The father gave him complete freedom because he loved him and respected his choice (just as God does with us).

Then the son journeyed to a faraway place and proceeded to spend his money on wild parties and loose women. As the money dwindled, his circle of “friends” became smaller, and eventually he had nothing left. To make matters worse, a famine hit the region where he lived. Desperate to survive, he looked for work, but the only position he found was working as a swineherd. Hunger tormented him, but he wasn’t even allowed to eat the pig feed.

As often happens during hardships, he began to consider his life. He realized all of his father’s workmen had enough to eat while he was starving, so he vowed to return to his father and say, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants” (verses 18, 19).

The son started home with mixed feelings, but his father was already watching for him. Full of compassion, the father ran forward, fell on his son’s neck, and kissed him, even though the son must have been dirty and smelly. Before the son could finish his whole confession, the father called servants to bring the best clothes and prepare a feast. Clearly he loved his son just as before. In this story we hear the full story of salvation—the repentance and confession of the sinner, the Father who waits longingly, and the joyous welcome when we return. God loves us unconditionally! But we need to go to Him, just as the son went back to his father. The love of God passes every test! He will not fail to welcome you.

Only when the son returned could the father pour out all his love. Only then was the son open to receiving all that his father wanted to offer. At last nothing stood in the way of their intimate relationship, and the son could experience the complete goodness of his father, who had never stopped waiting for him.

Back to the question—how can we experience the complete fullness of God’s love? By living in full, daily surrender to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. And when God’s love fills our lives, we become channels of His love to others; the more we give, the more we receive. Ellen White says, “You need a daily baptism of the love that in the days of the apostles made them all of one accord” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 191).

And why is it so important to understand this divine love? “Paul saw that the character of Christ must be understood before men could love Him or view the cross with the eye of faith. Here must begin that study which shall be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 273). What a joy to study the matchless, many-faceted love of our Savior! Won’t you choose today to turn your eyes on Jesus?

Praying God’s Word

What is the greatest commandment?

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ . . . And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37, 39).

Father, thank You for loving me. Please help me to love You with all my heart, all my being, all my emotions, all my strength. Thank You for already answering this request according to Your will. I want to love my neighbor with Your help. Make me a channel of Your love.

How can we grasp the depth of God’s love?

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:16-18, NIV).

Father, I ask that You strengthen me from the inside out through Your Holy Spirit. May Christ live in me through faith and guide me so I can be firmly rooted in His love. Since this request is according to Your will, I thank You for hearing me and answering.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God’s voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Faith Is the Victory (#608); My Faith Looks Up to Thee (#517); Be Thou My Vision (#547); To God Be the Glory (#341). *Other Songs:* Behold What Manner of Love; Lord, I Lift Your Name on High; I Love You, Lord.

Seeking Revival

DAY 3 — SURRENDER IS THE KEY

“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship” (Romans 12:1, NIV).

My Journey

I was a businessman, age 36, when a friend who was a pastor suddenly passed away at age 41. This brought the question to my mind: What would happen if God called me to be a pastor? I did not want this at all. For a whole week I fought bitterly and negotiated with God—morning, noon, and night. I explained to Him how I could serve Him other ways. Apparently He was not hearing my objections, and as I knelt by my bed with no further arguments, a quiet thought entered my mind: *God loves you!* And I thought, *Yes, I believe this.*

After a few minutes, trust in God’s love led me to completely surrender myself. Then I was at peace. And one and a half years later, the Lord did call me to become a pastor. Years later, I am still so grateful to Him. It was His endless love and wisdom that showed me a completely different way than what I had in mind. Now I see that this surrender released great blessings in my life. God led me the best possible way.

Why Surrender?

As Garrie F. Williams writes, “Full surrender is the key to salvation, to rebirth, to victory over sin and temptation, and to fullness of the Holy Spirit” (*How to be Filled With the Holy Spirit and Know It*). We cannot emphasize this encouraging message enough.

Just as I had to surrender before God could fully use me, so the apostle Paul had to give up his old life and plans when God called him on the road to Damascus. In his letter to the Romans, Paul later urged believers to “offer your bodies as a living sacrifice” and “offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness” (Romans 12:1; 6:13, NIV).

Many have not surrendered themselves to God (often out of ignorance) but instead have taken their lives into their own hands. They lack the power of the Holy Spirit, which is the gift that brings forth all of God’s other gifts. “But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord’s promise; they talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 672).

As humans we resist giving up our freedom, but God’s desire for us is the opposite: “God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him” (*Steps to Christ*, p. 43).

A life of sin is not as free as we like to imagine. “Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery. He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness. Christ came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466).

What do we lose by surrendering to Christ? He is able to free us from the tyranny of ourselves—from envy, resentment, quarrelsomeness, greed, addiction, anger, pride, conceit, discouragement, inferiority complexes, and more. Remember, every human being is his or her own biggest problem. *You* are your own biggest problem. “In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 466).

But a potter can only work with the clay that is in his hands. That's why we offer ourselves to God. "The surrender of all our powers to God greatly simplifies the problem of life. It weakens and cuts short a thousand struggles with the passions of the natural heart" (*My Life Today*, p. 6).

Only surrender leads to lasting joy. "Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 331). He invites you today to experience that perfect rest!

Praying God's Word

Make us instruments of Your love.

"Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness" (Romans 6:13, NIV).

Lord, we want to give You every part of our lives. Use us as instruments for Your glory.

Make our lives an act of worship.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship" (Romans 12:1, NIV).

Father, thank You so much for inviting us to become new creations. Show us how to surrender daily to You without any restrictions. Help us follow you in all things by Your strength.

Protect us from the evil one.

"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him" (1 John 5:18, ESV).

Lord, thank You for promising to protect us from the evil one when we are surrendered to You. Lead us on Your path to perfect joy.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: I Surrender All (#309); Have Thine Own Way, Lord (#567); Take My Life and Let It Be (#330); Under His Wings (#529); It Is Well (#530); Just as I Am (#313).

Seeking Revival

DAY 4 — PUTTING REVIVAL INTO PRACTICE

“Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:2, 3).

Picture the Possibilities

Imagine that someone gives a revival sermon in your church. With a final appeal, the preacher invites listeners to accept Jesus and follow Him always. Maybe no one responds. Maybe a few. Maybe many. Since God created humans with free choice, we cannot take credit for how others respond to an invitation. Still, when many accept God’s message and put it into practice—whether because of public preaching, personal Bible studies, friendship evangelism, or divinely appointed surprises—then our witness is clearly successful. This kind of effectiveness is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We stand back—amazed—and watch God perform miracles.

But too often our Christian lives are less than effective. This doesn’t mean our church programs and outreach plans are in vain. The Lord has surely blessed—as far as possible—our sincere human efforts. But how much greater could our experience be if we received the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Only God knows the possibilities! Preacher Henry T. Blackaby writes, “He will accomplish more in six months through a people yielded to Him than we could in sixty years in our own strength and wisdom” (Blackaby, *Experiencing God*, p. 108, revised edition).

Praying for revival is essential, but we can’t stop there. I invite you to take the necessary steps to actually *experience* personal revival. With God’s blessing, your life can become more powerful and fulfilling than ever before. Your home and church can also experience new life.

What’s Missing?

First, some questions: What is the center of all our problems? Is it spiritual? Could our lack of the Holy Spirit lie at the root of our lukewarm Christian experience? If the answer is yes, then *why* do we lack the Holy Spirit in our lives?

The Bible’s answer: “Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:2, 3). As we learned in the reading for Day 1, God invites us to continually *ask* for the Holy Spirit in our lives. “Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit, since this is the means by which we are to receive power? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, preach concerning it?” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 22).

James also suggests that we do not receive when we “ask amiss.” Perhaps he means that God cannot bless when our minds are set on “things of the flesh.” Paul explains, “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:5, 6).

What is the “carnal mind” that Paul speaks of? Actually, God’s Word describes three groups of people and their relationship to Him. Within each group are many variations depending on parental training, inherited character, self-control, age, culture, education, and so on. But despite these differences, we find just three basic groups: the “natural” or “worldly” man, the “spiritual” or “spirit-filled” man, and the “carnal” man or person “of the flesh.”

These three groups are described in 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 and 3:1-4. For now we’ll just mention natural man in passing; he lives in the world and does not yet have a relationship with God. Church members belong to the other two groups, and a quick glance at each description will help reveal where the problem is mainly hidden. The

question is, which group do I belong to? A brief examination should help with self-diagnosis—keeping in mind that we want to look at our own lives, not the lives of others! What kind of person are you?

Natural: Has no relationship with God. He “does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Spiritual: Has a full, genuine relationship with God. When we are spiritual, “we have the mind [Spirit] of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Carnal: Has a feigned or divided relationship with God. “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:1).

Coming up on Day 5: What is the difference between a spiritual and a carnal Christian?

Praying God’s Word

The Holy Spirit directs our thoughts.

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit” (Romans 8:5, ESV).

Father, we know that we are either under the influence of our flesh or the Holy Spirit. Please make us spiritual Christians and set our minds on the things of the Spirit.

We are no longer at the mercy of our lusts.

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

Lord, thank You that the Holy Spirit breaks the power of sin in our lives. Please grow the fruit of the Spirit in our hearts. We thank You for this wonderful promise.

The Spirit delivers us from condemnation.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:1, 2).

Father, what a blessing to know that the bondage of sin is broken when we live in the Holy Spirit. Thank You that Christ took our guilt upon Himself and freed us from sin and death.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God’s voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (#319); Power in the Blood (#294); Showers of Blessing (#195); Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (#469). *Other Songs:* I Have Decided to Follow Jesus; Shine, Jesus, Shine.

Seeking Revival

DAY 5 — SPIRITUAL OR CARNAL: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

"But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Our Link to Heaven

Before defining spiritual and carnal Christians, we need to remember that we're not talking about "sinners" and "non-sinners." All people, spiritual and carnal alike, are sinners in need of a Savior. Our only righteousness comes from Him. Instead, the criterion for inclusion in one group or the other is our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. God has stipulated that we cannot sever our relationship with the Holy Spirit without damaging our connection to heaven (Matthew 12:32). Ellen White explains, "he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him. It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 322).

And it's worth repeating: the only person I should be evaluating as spiritual or carnal is myself. God can work in other hearts and doesn't need me to pin labels on fellow church members. The good news is that if I'm disappointed by what He reveals in my heart, He can change me starting today!

The Spiritual Church Member

The spiritual person is a truly converted Christian. Although born a sinner, he is called "spiritual" because he has a living and growing relationship with the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul writes, "But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind [Spirit] of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:15, 16).

Jesus is the center of the spiritual person's life and reigns in his heart and determines his priorities. The spiritual person has committed himself completely to Jesus and asks continuously for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). In the context of Laodicea, the spiritual person could be called "hot" (Revelation 3:15). In the parable of the 10 virgins, he could be called "wise" (Matthew 25:2-4). The spiritual person experiences life "more abundantly" (John 10:10) and is filled with "all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). He rejoices that he has been "saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). Although the spiritual person faces setbacks and temptations, he fixes his eyes on Jesus.

The Carnal Church Member

A carnal person might have a feigned or divided relationship with God. He might be quietly indifferent to the Holy Spirit or even openly rebellious. Here's what the apostle Paul has to say: "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, 'I am of Paul,' and another, 'I am of Apollos,' are you not carnal?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).

Here we conclude that the defining factor must be our relationship with the Holy Spirit. *Carnal* describes a person who lives by the flesh; that is, by normal human strength, not by the Holy Spirit. And the greatest tragedy is that he hasn't chosen to receive eternal life (Romans 8:9).

Paul addressed the carnal people as "brethren," which shows they were church members. He couldn't call them "spiritual" because they weren't sufficiently filled with the Holy Spirit. They hadn't grown in faith as they should have. It's possible to be a church member for many years and still be a carnal Christian. It's possible to have biblical

knowledge and still not mature spiritually. Many carnal Christians feel dissatisfaction, disappointment, or lack of purpose in their spiritual lives. Some are apathetic and say, "We're just sinners. We can't do anything about it."

Other carnal Christians are enthusiastic and active, perhaps proud of their important positions in the church. Sadly, Jesus says, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:22, 23). What was the problem? They had no personal relationship with Jesus and no living connection with the Holy Spirit.

If you find that you are a carnal Christian at the moment, take heart! You have the possibility of new life starting right now. Many carnal Christians are in this condition unknowingly, and you may already be praying for a deeper faith experience. Jesus desires "that your joy may be full" (John 15:11), and He invites you to rest in the solid hope of eternal life.

Praying God's Word

We are still carnal, but there is hope.

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

Dear Lord, thank You for including "still" in this text, for it reminds us that we don't have to remain in this situation. We want You to change us today. Thank You that envy, strife, and divisions are healed when we live in the Holy Spirit.

Are we asking with carnal motives?

"You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:2, 3, NIV).

Father, we live in spiritual poverty because we do not ask, or we ask with selfish, human motives. Please transform our prayers and guide us by the Holy Spirit.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Amazing Grace (#108); Blessed Assurance (#462); Whiter Than Snow (#318); Redeemed (#337); The Savior is Waiting (#289). *Other Songs:* Change My Heart, O God; Unto Thee, O Lord; I've Been Redeemed.

Seeking Revival

DAY 6 — GOD'S SOLUTION TO OUR STRUGGLE

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke 9:23, 24).

Two Secrets for Lasting Revival

Jesus offers a solution for carnal Christians who want to become spiritual Christians. He says, "Remain joined to me, just as I also remain joined to you" (John 15:4, NIRV). In other words, "Abide in Me." But how?

Ellen White says that abiding in Christ means—

1. "a constant **receiving of His Spirit**" and
2. "a life of **unreserved surrender** to His service" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 676)

This two-part divine solution leads not only to revival but also to a happy Christian life. Why? Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). By taking these two steps, we experience "Christ in you," or His presence in our everyday lives, and that means we share the hope of His glory (Colossians 1:27).

The crucial point: We daily ask for and receive by faith the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and we daily surrender everything we have and are to God. He provides the joy!

On Day 1 we talked about how important it is to ask for the Holy Spirit, and on Day 3 we studied our need for surrender. Today we'll take another look at these two steps—with a special focus on our need to ask and surrender *daily*.

Why Should We Ask Daily for the Holy Spirit?

Years ago I read the story of a gangster who converted to Christ. He wholeheartedly confessed his perjury, theft, and other crimes, and as a result he experienced a tremendous divine intervention. God completely turned his life around.

This impressed me. I said to myself, *I'm doing fine in most ways, but I don't have experiences like that.* So I prayed, "Lord, I also want to confess all my known sins and the sins You have yet to show me. In addition, I will get up an hour earlier each day to pray and read the Bible. I want to see if You will also intervene in my life."

Praise God, He did intervene in my life! Not because I earned some merit by getting up early but because I daily placed myself where the Holy Spirit could reach me. If a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit was a daily necessity for Jesus on this earth, how much more do we need this power? Paul writes about the inward man "being renewed day by day," and he prays that God's people would be "strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man" (2 Corinthians 4:16 and Ephesians 3:16). And Ellen White offers this hope: "The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50). Our "inward person" needs daily care.

Why Should We Surrender Daily to Jesus?

Trying to help His disciples understand the sacrificial nature of discipleship, Jesus told them, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). To deny self means giving Jesus control over our lives each day. The apostle Paul explains it like this: "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31).

As humans we resist surrender, forgetting that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10). We receive physical life at birth, but we still eat every day to maintain health. We receive spiritual life when we are born again, but we still need daily spiritual food or we will die. Just as we cannot eat our meals ahead of time, neither can we surrender to Christ for tomorrow. Ellen White writes, "However complete may have been our consecration at conversion, it will avail us nothing unless it be renewed daily" (*Our Father Cares*, p. 144).

How to Get Started

The best way—and only way—to daily receive the Holy Spirit and surrender to Jesus is by having daily personal worship. Unless we choose God each day, our promises and good intentions are like "ropes of sand" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 47). Will you commit today to sharing the best part of your day with Him? "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

Praying God's Word

Remain in the best relationship there is.

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. . . . If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:4, 7).

Lord, thank You for growing our trust when we daily surrender to You. Lead us to know the Holy Spirit better. Let Your desires be our desires.

Live in the best relationship every day.

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33, NIV).

Dear Lord, teach us to put You first in everything. Show us how to begin each day with You.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: I Need Thee Every Hour (#483); Day by Day (#532); Abide With Me (#50); Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (#290); Moment by Moment (#507). *Other Songs:* Open Our Eyes, Lord; Seek Ye First.

Seeking Revival

DAY 7 — PRAYING GOD'S PROMISES

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

Impossible Victories Become Possible

Jesus redeemed us so “that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:14). But how do we build faith in what He has promised? How should we pray so that we are sure of being filled with the Holy Spirit? How does a revived heart lead to real-life Christian maturity?

For many years I knew about a devotional practice called “praying with promises,” but for a long time I did not practice it. When I discovered the blessings of praying God’s promises, I wanted to share with others. Several years ago I wrote a book called *Steps to Personal Revival*, which includes a chapter about how praying Scripture is the key to practical Christian experience. Some readers sent these testimonies:

“I never thought I would find such new knowledge about prayer—praying based on God’s promises, as you explained. In the meantime, God has given me victories in my life that I never thought possible.”

“Since I learned to pray with promises, my life has been transformed. . . . My wife has noticed a complete change in me. Also, I’m surprised at myself.”

Try It Yourself

What does it mean to pray with promises? We choose a Bible promise or command and pray those words back to God. We rely on Him to do as He promised. We allow Him to guide our prayers and speak to us through His Word. And if we feel doubt—as everyone does at times—we point to the promises and claim them as God’s personal guarantee. As we fill our hearts and prayers with Scripture, our faith is strengthened and we come to know God’s mind as never before. Ellen White writes, “To blot the promises of God from the Word would be like blotting the sun from the sky. . . . God has placed the promises in His Word to lead us to have faith in Him. In these promises He draws back the veil from eternity” (*My Life Today*, p. 338).

The Bible offers clear guidance for our prayers. First, we are told to make our requests in the name of Jesus: “If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:14). God also gives a general promise that He answers prayers that are according to His will: “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14, 15). God reveals His will in the commands and promises of the Bible, and we can rely on Him to do what He has promised. Verse 15 goes on: “And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

What does that mean? When we pray for something that we know is according to God’s will, He is already answering at the same moment. We may not see visible results yet. And usually we don’t notice anything emotionally. But our prayers are answered by faith, not by our feelings. The feelings will follow later, but for now, we trust the promise.

For example, I have learned something when praying with people addicted to alcohol and nicotine. At the moment they pray for deliverance, they may not notice anything. They must receive the deliverance by faith. But perhaps a few hours later they notice they don’t have the old craving for drinking or tobacco. At this moment, they have received the practical deliverance requested in the prayer.

Ellen White also offers insights on praying with promises. “[God] is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His

promises" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 668). "Plead for the Holy Spirit. God stands back of every promise He has made. With your Bible in your hands say, I have done as Thou hast said. I present Thy promise, 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you' (Matthew 7:7)" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 147).

Jesus promises, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24). Are you praying His promises every day? When we pray in His name and according to His will, all heaven is moved!

Praying God's Word

God is waiting to give us the Holy Spirit.

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).

"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:39).

"And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him" (Acts 5:32).

Father, we read that You will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask You, to those who believe in You, and to those who obey You. This is our desire. Please accomplish this in our lives, for we cannot do it ourselves. Thank You for pouring Your love into our hearts.

He invites us to be filled with the Spirit.

"Be filled with the Spirit" or "let yourself be continually and repeatedly refilled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18, paraphrase).

Dear Father, teach us to ask continually and repeatedly for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We don't want to lack the Spirit like the foolish virgins. Fill us with the wisdom found in Your Word.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Standing on the Promises (#518); Wonderful Words of Life (#286); Give Me the Bible (#272); Great Is Thy Faithfulness (#100). *Other Songs:* Ancient Words; Psalm 19 Song.

Seeking Revival

DAY 8 — OBEDIENCE THROUGH JESUS

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Steps of Faith

Remember when Jesus performed His first miracle during the wedding at Cana? Mary, the mother of Jesus, told the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it” (John 2:5). By saying this, Mary built the confidence of the servants in Jesus. When He asked them to fill the water jars, they did exactly as He asked. Then Jesus said, “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast” (verse 8). Once again, they followed His request, even though it seemed strange—and they soon realized they had just witnessed a miracle. Take a look at the individual steps again:

1. By her instructions, Mary built up the servants’ **trust in Jesus**.
2. The servants expressed their trust and willingness by doing just what Jesus asked. In other words, they took the **preparatory steps** that allowed for the miracle.
3. **Then Jesus alone performed the miracle.**

The servants did nothing to turn the water into wine—but would the miracle have happened without their preparatory steps? This is how the obedience of faith works: We choose to trust Jesus, place our will at His disposal, and take obedient steps of faith. But Jesus—and Jesus alone—performs the miracles.

How It Works

The apostle Paul explains that a mystery has been revealed in us for a definite purpose—to bring about obedience of faith (see Romans 16:25-27). What is this mystery? According to Colossians 1:27, it is “Christ in us.” And what is the result when obedience of faith is achieved in Christ? “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). We have a new life through Christ living and acting in us. We are new creations!

When we have “Christ in us,” our attitude toward His commandments changes. “His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). “For My yoke is easy,” Jesus said (Matthew 11:30). “I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love” because they are “better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver” and “sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:47, 72, 103). “Great peace have those who love your law” (Psalm 119:165). Obedience of faith is a pleasant thing because God, in His love, has given us only the best rules.

And while obedience matters, it never earns our salvation, and it never happens by our own goodness. Ellen White says, “He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. Man cannot be saved without obedience, but his works should not be of himself; Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure” (*Faith and Works*, p. 94). Three points are worth highlighting:

1. It is impossible to reach heaven by my own works. Trying to earn something from God is futile.
2. However, obedience is an indispensable part of life with God, since Jesus’ followers are called to live in conformity with His will.
3. Obedience should not be our own work but a miracle accomplished by Christ in us.

What Part Do We Play?

Once again, we cannot do anything to save ourselves, but God respects human free will and allows us to choose. According to Ellen White, “The Lord designs that divine power shall cooperate with human effort” (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 10). What does that mean?

1. **We trust.** We choose to develop our trust in Jesus, who works in us “to will and to do” (Philippians 2:13). He creates in us an attitude of willingness and shows us what we need to do.
2. **We decide.** We must choose to do God’s will. Since He completely respects our individuality and will, He will only intervene if we make the decision. He waits for it.
3. **We take preparatory steps.** We express our decision in steps of obedience, which can be large or small.
4. **God alone** does the crucial work of salvation.

And remember, even our part—trusting, deciding, and taking preparatory steps—is done only in God’s strength, when Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit. This makes obedience a joy.

Praying God’s Word

Obedience allows us to fully experience God’s love.

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21).

Father, thank You for showing us how to attain the best life possible. Forgive us when we reject Your law and Your love. Lead us to trust You fully and surrender our whole hearts to You.

God is pleased when we ask for obedient hearts.

“So give your servant an obedient heart. . . . The Lord was pleased. . . . I will do according to Your words” (1 Kings 3:9, 10, 12, translated from the German Luther Version).

Lord, please give us obedient hearts. Give us complete trust in Your leading and principles, even when we do not understand. Teach us to see obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit not as a burden but as a delight.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God’s voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Trust and Obey (#590); Live Out Thy Life Within Me (#316); I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go (#573); He Leadeth Me (#537); O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee (#574).

Seeking Revival

DAY 9 — DO I WORK FOR GOD—OR DOES HE WORK THROUGH ME?

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).

Created for Good Works

Zsolt, a theology student from Austria, was discouraged. He had been invited to evangelize in Kenya, but only 30 guests showed up each night during the first week. He had hoped for many more. Frustrated, he locked himself in his room and prayed for four hours. Spreading all his despair before God, he surrendered himself with his entire being and waited. He was sure God had listened, though fears and doubts still troubled him. Then came the evening meeting: 600 people arrived! Later he had 700, then 1,000. In the end, 39 were baptized by God's grace.

Whenever we attempt great things for God, we face a vital question: Am I working **for** God with my **human** abilities? Or is God working **through** me with His **divine** abilities?

The Bible addresses this mystery of how a strong God works through weak humans. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). This verse refers to two "works." First, God has "created us in Christ Jesus." This is the new life He has given us in Christ. Then God does a second work in us: the "good works" that He has already prepared for us to do. How should we live so that God can do these works through us?

1. **Live in the Holy Spirit:** "Till they receive the Spirit, they cannot realize what God can do through them" (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 286).
2. **Live in full surrender to Christ:** "He who will give himself fully to God will be guided by the divine hand. . . . As he treasures the lessons of divine wisdom, a sacred commission will be entrusted to him" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 283, 284).

By completing the tasks God has prepared for us, we grow in faith, and our spiritual and mental abilities are developed. Even our failures hold valuable lessons, for we learn that no human effort can succeed without God at the center. "The preaching of the word will be of no avail without the continual presence and aid of the Holy Spirit" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 671).

Not by Might, Nor by Power

And just as preachers must be empowered by God's Spirit, so it is with authors of spiritual materials: "If the salvation of God is with the one that writes for the paper, the same spirit will be felt by the reader. . . . But a piece written when the writer is not living wholly for the glory of God, not wholly devoted to Him, angels feel the lack in sadness. They turn away and do not impress the reader with it because God and His Spirit are not in it. The words are good, but it lacks the warm influence of the Spirit of God" (*EGW Letters and Manuscripts*, vol. 1, p. 532).

This principle is true for all tasks, whether ministry, teaching, leading a mission project, training a child, or anything else. "It is not the power that emanates from men that makes the work successful, it is the power of the heavenly intelligences working with the human agent that brings the work to perfection" (*Christian Service*, p. 260).

Even the human Jesus of Nazareth depended daily on His connection to heaven. He asked the disciples, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works" (John 14:10). Or let's take a look at the apostle Paul. How was one man able to carry out such unbelievably great mission work? He said, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Paul gave up his autonomy and

allowed Christ to lead his life. He explained, "I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God" (Romans 15:18, 19, NIV). The key is being in-Christ.

God wants to do incredible things even today. His plans go far beyond our own capabilities. Only with a constant prayer connection to Him can we carry out the task He has prepared. He invites us, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

Praying God's Word

Human abilities achieve only human results.

"And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. . . . For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. . . . [God] brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs" (Acts 7:22, 25, 36).

Dear Father, lead us to surrender as Moses did after his years as a shepherd. We know You can also perform signs and wonders through us when we live by the power of the Holy Spirit. Make us willing to go where You lead. Thank You for Your divine power.

We are created in Christ for good works.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

Lord, make us tools in Your hand for the salvation and blessing of our neighbors. We know the fulfillment of the gospel depends on this question: Am I working for God with my human abilities, or is God working through me with His divine abilities? Teach us that we cannot serve You on our own. Thank You for promising to work through us. Please bless the work of our hands.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Take My Life and Let It Be (#330); Not I, But Christ (#570); Anywhere With Jesus (#508); Have Thine Own Way, Lord (#567). *Other Songs:* Make Me a Servant; In His Time.

Seeking Revival

DAY 10 — SEEKING REVIVAL TOGETHER

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

What’s Next? Three Steps for a Spiritual Restart

Would you like to experience spiritual renewal together with your church family? Here’s one suggested plan that has led to spiritual awakening and hope for churches in Germany, Switzerland, England, Tajikistan, and the United States. Revival can happen anywhere, even in secular countries, when people continually surrender themselves to Jesus and ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Pray about how your church or family or prayer group can experience a spiritual “restart” this year. Make a plan, seek input from others, and set a date to begin. You’ll want to adapt your ideas depending on your culture, your community, and the needs of your group.

We want to share the example of just one church in Decatur, Alabama, USA:

1. Restart

Take several weeks or months to pray intently for the Holy Spirit, along with studying Scripture and possibly a short devotional book.

In preparation for an evangelistic series, members of the Decatur church began praying together at church for 30 minutes every Sabbath morning. They shared pointers in the church bulletin to promote prayer, revival, and the work of the Holy Spirit. They also held a video seminar about the Holy Spirit on two Sabbath evenings. After the seminar, they distributed a short book about spiritual revival and asked members to read it over the next six weeks. (They chose the book *Steps to Personal Revival*. Other options include *Steps to Christ* or a Bible study guide about revival.) Later, during Ten Days of Prayer, they prayed for revival and the Holy Spirit and celebrated a Sabbath of prayer and praise.

2. Relationship Care

Begin intercessory prayer for five unreached people, then contact them and maintain a friendship in a way that is sincere and tactful. During this time you may want to study another book about prayer or revival. Consider studying in pairs for support and deeper understanding.

During this second phase, members of the Decatur church started studying the book *40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming* in groups of two. As a result, their joy in telling others about Jesus grew. As suggested in the book, members also started praying for five unreached people in their lives. Then they got in touch with these acquaintances or former church members and maintained the contact over time. This resulted in baptisms and blessings for both the new members and those who had prayed for them.

Think about it: if 10 church members each pray for and maintain contact with five people, that would be 50 people, and it would grow from there. At the end of the 40 days, you might invite the people you prayed for to a special visitor Sabbath. Next, invite each person to join a small group (Bible study, healthy cooking, exercise, social activities, whatever is appropriate for the person’s interests). You can also invite them to upcoming evangelistic meetings. Remember to attend the meetings with your friends and help them feel welcome.

3. Sharing

Each member can invite the people they've been praying for to attend evangelistic meetings, small-group Bible studies, or a one-on-one Bible study. (If some of your prayer contacts aren't ready for Bible studies, invite them to a small group focused on an area of interest, such as exercise, healthy cooking, hobbies, or social activities.)

When the Decatur church held an evangelistic series, the members experienced revival and a deeper relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit worked on the hearts of invited guests, and 10 people gave their lives to Jesus through baptism (with five more joining later). The results are a testimony to the power of prayer! (Decatur story is adapted from a report by Elida Meneses in *Southern Tidings*.)

What Can Your Church Do?

Pray together and make a plan for your church today. "All heaven is in activity, and the angels of God are waiting to cooperate with all who will devise plans whereby souls for whom Christ died may hear the glad tidings of salvation. Angels who minister to those that shall be heirs of salvation, are saying to every true saint: 'There is work for you to do.' 'Go, stand and speak . . . to the people all the words of this life' (Acts 5:20)" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 433, 434).

God sends you out to the world with this promise: "What you are planning will neither succeed by the might of an army nor by human strength; rather, my Spirit will accomplish it! I, the Lord God Almighty, promise this" (Zechariah 4:6, translated from the German *Hoffnung fuer Alle* version).

Praying God's Word

The Holy Spirit will accomplish it.

"What you are planning will neither succeed by the might of an army nor by human strength; rather, my Spirit will accomplish it! I, the Lord God Almighty, promise this" (Zechariah 4:6, translated from the German *Hoffnung fuer Alle* version).

Dear Father, You tell us that success does not come from human effort. Please forgive us for our lack of Holy Spirit power. Revive us so we are not lukewarm like Laodicea. Awaken us for our own salvation and that of our neighbors. And thank You for the eternal joy You have promised.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.

Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.

Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.

Our Church: Ask God to bless the efforts of our local, regional, and world church.

Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.

Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God's voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Bringing in the Sheaves (#369); Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (#618); I Love to Tell the Story (#457); When We All Get to Heaven (#633). *Other Songs:* Pass It On; People Need the Lord; We Are His Hands.